

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

- 1        1. (Currently amended) An ~~automated~~ method for~~of~~ composing a virtual  
2 book from a set of electronically stored documentation comprising multiple  
3 books, the method comprising:  
  
4            automatically and under computer control parsing said electronically  
5            stored documentation to gather meta-information representing physical attributes  
6            of said electronically stored documentation;  
  
7            automatically storing said meta-information in a database;  
8            automatically identifying a plurality of topics based on said meta-  
9            information and the chapter and section headings in the documentation, wherein  
10          each said topic is associated with a portion of the documentation;  
  
11          automatically determining a structure of the documentation, wherein said  
12          structure indicates a hierarchy of said topics within the documentation;  
  
13          automatically classifying each of said topics within one or more  
14          categories;  
  
15          receiving a subject for a virtual book;  
  
16          automatically using said topics and said meta-information to compose~~ing~~  
17          said virtual book to include a subset of said topics that are relevant to said subject,  
18          and each said relevant topic includes a pointer to said associated portion of the  
19          documentation, wherein the complete virtual book can be stored for future access.
  
- 1            2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising searching said  
2 topics for a set of topics relevant to said subject.

1           3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said relevant topics are  
2 grouped in said virtual book by said categories.

1           4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said relevant topics within a  
2 first category are listed in the order of their relevance to said subject.

1           5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said relevant topics within a  
2 first category are listed in the order they occur within the documentation.

1           6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying index  
2 entries in the documentation.

1           7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said index entries are  
2 included in said virtual book.

1           8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising sorting said  
2 relevant topics according to their relevance to said topic.

1           9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said categories include one  
2 or more of the set of: concept, task, example, reference and troubleshooting.

1           10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said composing comprises:  
2 identifying a characteristic of a viewer of said virtual book; and  
3 customizing said virtual book for the viewer on the basis of said  
4 characteristic.

1           11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic is one  
2 of the set of: employment role and level of experience.

1           12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic  
2 comprises a level of experience of the user and said customizing comprises  
3 omitting one or more of said categories from said virtual book.

1           13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic  
2 comprises an employment role of the user and said customizing comprises  
3 implementing said role as another category of said virtual book.

1           14. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for of  
2 generating a virtual electronic book from a set of electronic documentation  
3 comprising multiple books stored in multiple files, comprising:  
4           automatically parsing said electronic documentation to gather meta-  
5           information representing physical attributes of said electronic documentation;  
6           storing physical attributes said meta-information of the multiple files in a  
7 database;  
8           automatically identifying topics based on said meta-information and the  
9 chapter and section headings within the documentation, wherein each said topic  
10 comprises a heading within one of the multiple files;  
11          automatically associating unique identifiers with each of said topics;  
12          automatically storing said topics in said database;  
13          for each of said stored topics:  
14          automatically storing in said database a reference to a first book containing  
15         said topic;  
16          automatically storing in said database a reference to a first file containing  
17         said topic;  
18          automatically storing in said database a reference to a parent topic of said  
19         topic, if any, in the first book; and  
20          automatically storing in said database a reference to a child topic of said  
21         topic, if any, in the first book;

22 |       automatically categorizing each of said stored topics into one or more pre-  
23 | determined categories, wherein each of said categories represents a type of topic;  
24 | receiving a subject for a virtual book;  
25 |       automatically searching said stored topics for topics relevant to the  
26 | subject;  
27 |       automatically presenting said virtual book to a viewer, wherein said virtual  
28 | book comprises said relevant topics grouped according to said categories and said  
29 | meta-information; and  
30 |       automatically storing said virtual book for future access, wherein the  
31 | complete virtual book can be stored.

1           15. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium storing  
2 instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform an  
3 automated method for of composing a virtual book from a set of electronically  
4 stored documentation comprising multiple books, the method comprising:  
5       automatically parsing said set of electronically stored documentation to  
6 gather meta-information representing physical attributes of said electronically  
7 stored documentation;  
8       automatically storing said meta-information in a database;  
9       automatically identifying a plurality of topics based on said meta-  
10 information and the chapter and section headings in the documentation, wherein  
11 each said topic is associated with a portion of the documentation;  
12       automatically determining a structure of the documentation, wherein said  
13 structure indicates a hierarchy of said topics within the documentation;  
14       automatically classifying each of said topics within one or more  
15 categories;  
16       receiving a subject for a virtual book;  
17       automatically using said topics and said meta-information to compose  
18 ing said virtual book to include a subset of said topics that are relevant to said subject,

19 and each said relevant topic includes a pointer to said associated portion of the  
20 documentation, wherein the complete virtual book can be stored for future access.

1           16. (Cancelled).

1           17. (Currently amended) An apparatus for producing a virtual book,  
2 comprising:

3           a set of electronic documentation files;

4           a parsing module configured to automatically gather meta-information  
5           representing physical attributes of said electronic documentation;

6           a database configured to automatically store said meta-information;

7           a topic module configured to automatically identify a set of topics based  
8 on said meta-information and the chapter and section headings within said  
9 documentation, wherein each said topic comprises a heading appearing in said  
10 documentation;

11          a structural analysis module configured to automatically determine a  
12 hierarchy of said topics within said documentation;

13          a categorizer configured to automatically classify a first of said topics into  
14 one or more predetermined categories;

15          a database configured to automatically store said topics, said hierarchy and  
16 said classifications;

17          a processor configured to automatically produce a virtual book comprising  
18 a subset of said set of topics from said topics and said meta-information, wherein  
19 said subset of said topics is relevant to a subject of said virtual book; and

20          a storage device for automatically storing said virtual book, wherein the  
21 complete virtual book can be stored.

1           18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a network  
2 server configured to present said virtual book to a user.

1           19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising an index  
2 module configured to assemble index entries referring to said relevant topics  
3 within said documentation.

1           20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said processor is further  
2 configured to customize said virtual book on the basis of one of a role of a viewer  
3 of said virtual book and a level of experience of the viewer.

1           21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said categories include  
2 one or more of the set of: concept, task, example, reference, troubleshooting, role  
3 of a viewer of said virtual book and level of experience of the viewer.